

July-August

1953

HANDS OFF GRENADA AND ST. VINCENT PEOPLE'S LEADERS!

West Indian delegates at the
Women's Conference; right, Mrs
Lucien; below, Daphne Campbell



MISS DAPHNE CAMPBELL (picture on right) left Jamaica by K.L.M. on Saturday, May 30th, for Britain en route to Copenhagen, Denmark, where she represented Jamaica at the International Conference of Women sponsored by the Women's International Democratic Federation.

Miss Campbell, 26, is the delegate of the Jamaica Youth Movement and the People's Educational Organisation, a member of the Pathfinder Club of the Y.W.C.A., an active Trade Unionist and a leading member of the National Labour Party. She went to put the case on the role of Jamaican women in Jamaica's social and political life.

The conference was attended by representatives of seventy-four countries, including countries from both east and west Europe, America, Asia and Africa.

Mrs. Janet Jagen, recently elected Deputy Speaker of the House of Assembly of British Guiana, left B.G. on May 31st to attend this conference. She then went on to Budapest for the World Peace Council.

Mrs. Lucien, seen in the picture above, represented Trinidad women at the Conference.



Attempt to shoot Joshua

AN attempt was made to shoot the Hon. Ebenezer Joshua, St. Vincent Labour Leader and member of the Legislative and Executive Council in his home in Kingston some two weeks ago.

A report reaching us states that a shot from an Enfield rifle was fired into his room at 4 a.m. in the morning.

Police are looking high and low for Sardine, the seaman who originally revealed the plot to Joshua, before an enquiry is held into his sworn statement which alleges he was put up by Superintendent Jenkins to shoot or frame Joshua.

(Turn to next page)

RADIO JAMAICA GOES ON STRIKE

From our Jamaica Correspondent, June 5th.

RESPONDING to the call of their Union leaders, twenty-five workers, technicians, clerks, manual labourers and maids, employed by the Monopoly Broadcasting Company (Radio Jamaica) went on strike here demanding higher wages and other improved working conditions. This mass walk-out followed a series of conferences between the Management of the Company and the B.I.T.U. representing the workers.

Countering the Union's demands for increases ranging from 11/- to 22/- per week, the Managing Director of the Company and one of the most notorious labour-haters in this country, offered to "submit the dispute to arbitration", where he and his capitalist allies would be able to "rig" the arbitration Board to suit their own ends, as was the case in the recent Gleaner strike.

Past Lessons

But the lessons of the past have taught the workers how to struggle, and with their rich experience and maturity to fight for their rights when threatened by reactionary employers, Radio Jamaica's workers have instructed the retreating Bustamante Industrial Trade Union to reject completely the fraudulent manoeuvre of the Management's "Arbitration" offer.

In a prepared statement broadcast on the afternoon the strike was called (June 4th), the Company explained their inability to meet the demand of the Union; and reiterated the ridiculous offer of arbitration or nothing.

"The workers will not bow to this threat", a Union Official told me, as he emphasised the workers determination to fight until their demands are met. In the same broadcast "explaining" the history of the dispute from the exploiters' point of view, Bill McLurg, the Manager of the Broadcasting Station, said the Station was being manned by "loyal" workers. The strikers understand that this "loyal" group of workers McLurg boasts about are only strike breakers given a different name.

Chaguaramas Base Lay-off

AMIDST Government's inaction to bring any relief down the passenger line from San Fernando to Port to the unemployed, the American Naval base at of Spain which would involve retrenchment of another Chaguaramas has announced a lay-off of 66 2/3% of all four hundred workers.

Rance, in a recent speech to the Chamber of Commerce, also threatened that the oilworkers meet either increased production or face reduction in wages out of work. And now there is a threat to close and salaries, or retrenchment.

IRON IN B.G.

IT is now officially disclosed that some forty-six million tons of iron ore deposit has been located in the hills along the banks of the Essequibo.

One by one, the geologists and scientists are admitting some of the extent of our untold wealth.

Yet some political careerists come cap-in-hand to London and in return for Park Lane luxuries, put us deeped down in debt to the financiers of imperialism.

Repeated discoveries indicate that the West Indies might even yet be a self-supporting area.

In 1953, however, this is no re-requisite to independence, a more urgent necessity is the maintenance of World Peace.

BIRTH

CONGRATULATIONS to Vin and Hettie Brown on the happy addition to the family of a bright baby boy.

Best wishes to the trio from "News".

TREASURE CHEST

Trinidad Central Oilfields

FOR 1952 the nett profit is £63,827, or over 300,000 West Indian dollars. This is after the British Chancellor of the Exchequer has had reserved £80,890 for him.

The shareholders are drawing a 20 per cent. dividend. This is far in excess of the usual dividends received from English investments at home in Britain.

R. Palme Dutt in his book CRISIS OF BRITAIN AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE warns of this situation, notwithstanding the economic threads of the U.S.A.:

"But this does not mean that Britain's role as world usurer and colonial exploiter has yet come to an end."

Ah well, the price of Empire is very costly to us West Indians. In addition to the excesses already noted, T.C.O. have £70,076 to "carry forward" to next year's account.

Booker Brothers McConnell & Co. Ltd.

(Colonial merchants and traders, Sugar Producers, Shipowners and Rum merchants.)

A RECORD sugar-crop, £1,400,000 of a £1,500,000 overdraft cleared off and still £612,715 (\$2½ million W.I.) available as distributable profits.

Good old Bookers!

Of course British Guiana is the main hunting-ground, but Mr. J. M. Campbell, the Chairman, tells us that the tentacles spread to Trinidad, Nyasaland, the Rhodesias, United Kingdom, Canada and many other countries.

One might wonder why the report and accounts for 1952 go into detail, by stating that Bookers have 2,400 shareholders and 38,407 employees in BRITISH GUIANA?

The report also states that the "poor" shareholders only received £327,000 over the past two years, and the wages bill has soared over £6,500,000. On the face of it, all looks very fair and democratic—but, who is enjoying or about to enjoy the appreciated shareholding in the extensive assets running into several millions of dollars?

Obviously not the B.G. workers, who undoubtedly were the people who made the assets appreciate or rise in value.

So B.G.'s new Government need shed no tears for the shareholders as Mr. Campbell would have them do, no matter how he cajoles or threatens:

"We must face the fact that if shareholders do not get an adequate return on the money they invest in British Guiana and in Bookers, the colony will suffer economic stagnation—and its people much hardship."

ANOTHER YEAR OF STRUGGLE C.L.C. (London Branch) holds 6th. A.G.M.

THE growing movement in the whole West Indies for National Independence, and the determination of West Indians to struggle to attain this objective was clearly reflected in the speeches, resolutions and main report at the sixth Annual General Meeting of the Caribbean Labour Congress (London Branch), on June 7th.

The spirit of that meeting revealed the tasks before West Indians as not any less, but much greater now that the opportunities for advancing the movement were unfolding.

The special part the C.L.C. can play was brought out from the resolution passed unanimously calling for the immediate convening of a full congress of the C.L.C. in the West Indies, to grasp and unite the forces pushing towards National Independence.

The Chairman, in opening, paid special tribute to someone who could not be present at the meeting but who more than any other was responsible for the good work and success of the London Branch since its inception in 1948, namely Billy Strachan. But from hospital where he was recovering from an operation. Billy sent a moving and inspiring message to the meeting, which drew loud applause. Billy Strachan was later elected to continue as Secretary.

Resolutions were passed on Civil Liberties in the West Indies, calling for the removal of bans on travel, on books, films, and so on; on Kenya, in support of the Fourth World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship to be held in Bucharest this August.

An important step was taken to reduce membership dues from 12/- per year to 5/-, payable in one sum or in two payments.

Common Enemy

Guest speaker was Julius Jacobs, Secretary of the London Trades Council. He put very clearly to the West Indians, the similarity of the struggle of both the West Indian and British workers against their common enemy that knows no colour. For when the "Circus" was held on June 2nd, Malan was at a party and rode in the same coach as the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The colour bar did not exist amongst the rulers, but it was used to keep the workers apart, white from black. But when we unite we shall end all oppression.

Those who sold out the movement were not only to be found in the West Indies. The British workers also have their traitors, Julius said. Quite recently, four Trade Union leaders went over to the Tory Steel Board. But he said that these people, by going over to the enemy, had lost all influence amongst the working class. The lesson to be learned was that any leader who betrayed the working class movement and goes over to help the bosses, ceases to be a power.

Comrade Julius Jacobs invited members of the C.L.C. to attend the next meeting of the London Trades Council at which a film would be shown of the May Day Demonstration in which a C.L.C. contingent took part.

The membership elected a new Executive Committee. The Officers remained the same, the only change being Carlton Bayley coming on as second Vice-President.

HANDS OFF LEADERS

Militancy

This follows the publication of a sworn statement by a West Indian seaman, named Sardine, in which he alleged that Lt.-Col. Jinkins, island Police Chief, had incited him to shoot or implicate Joshua on a serious charge.

Last month's issue of the "News" carried the document in full. Joshua called on various friends to stand guard over him, but five of them were subsequently arrested by the police. Sardine himself has "disappeared".

Beaten

Earlier this year Joshua had been arrested, beaten and then made to pay one hundred dollars costs on a sedition charge. The brutal beating inflicted on him even surpassed the ill-treatment meted out by British Guiana police to the Hon. Sydney King of the Peoples Progressive Party, Minister of State and Assemblyman of B.G., on his return a few months ago from Hungary.

Meanwhile, last month in Grenada, the Hon. Eric Gairy, Labour leader and also a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils, was ordered to pay sixteen hundred dollars after judgement was found against him on a charge of slandering a local planter. If unable to pay and adjudged bankrupt, he can be disqualified from the Council, where, as Leader of the Colony's biggest Union, he has held a seat since the election, following his imprisonment in the 1951 uprising.

Slander

It was alleged that Gairy claimed this planter's wife discouraged a friend from drinking her husband's brand of rum because it was doped to weaken the Negro workers.

Does this sound like a serious charge in Her Majesty's dignified court?

Finally, from Trinidad comes the report that members of progressive groups are seeking to raise the ban on B.G. P.P.P. Leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan. Certain members of the leading progressive group—the West Indian Independence Party—now face the prospect of a three month term for having levelled criticisms against a committee of the Legislature.

West Indians can clearly see from this month's news round-up the full pattern of the new attack on our people's leaders.

In the past it was considered enough to ban and browbeat, jail occasionally or bribe with honours. But today all colonial people have grown increasingly aware of the world-wide nature and successes of the anti-imperialist struggle. West Indian leaders have become more militant and more aware of the Caribbean wide nature of our own struggle.

And so, in the context of the P.P.P. victory in B.G., colonial governors, immediate agents of Imperialist Britain, have unleashed a new terror to crush this militancy and this move to unified action.

To crush militancy they have resorted to ransacking the law for charges on which to convict the people's leaders. In the Joshua case, Judge Cools Lartigue declared "I will admit that I have been a member of the Bar for some 27 years and this is the first time I have been connected with charges of this nature."

Again, in the Gairy case, the size of the fine makes it all too probable that he may be disqualified from the Councils.

People's Spokesman

To oppose the movement towards more unified action, the Governors have not only banned more and more progressives—an open contradiction of their Federation aims—but have turned their guns on the "Caribbean News", main organ of the unity move, and banned it from almost every territory.

Rance of Trinidad has even refused to listen to arguments against the ban whilst Gibbs, of St. Vincent, has over-ridden the Executive Council's protest.

Within the past few months reports from the West Indies sent to your "Caribbean News" have "gone astray" in the post, just as Sardine, the self-confessed would-be-assassin, has now "disappeared" in St. Vincent.

The "Caribbean News" is the only organ that can reveal the facts of this wave of oppression and victimisation. It is to the Caribbean Labour Congress that Gairy and Joshua have sent their appeals.

We now appeal to all readers to supply us with all news received from correspondents at home. In this wave of terror other victims may have been attacked. Let us know. Buy the "Caribbean News". Join the Caribbean Labour Congress.

from page 1

★ Editorial ★ FESTIVAL

HARDLY anyone doubts that world youth friendship can bring mankind closer to peace.

West Indian Youth will have ample opportunity to help bring this about in August in Bucharest.

Furthermore, our struggle for national independence will be immeasurably strengthened if a large number of young West Indians both directly from home and also from among the thousands now in England, went to the Festival.

There they will meet young people in a similar struggle for their rights. They will be encouraged by their meetings with the many thousands of champions of peace and national independence.

They will be imbued with a new sense of pride in their national culture.

In many ways, going to Bucharest will be a terrific holiday, but along with that we must make certain that we get the most out of it by promoting our struggle for freedom.

A special day will be set aside to mark and demonstrate solidarity with colonial youth struggling for a fuller life.

The Festival is political insofar as it stands for Peace, Friendship and National Independence for peoples living under colonial domination. But there is no particular political or religious creed imposed as a condition.

The Festival provides the ideal opportunity for the most diverse opinions to meet in friendship and understanding.

Let no West Indian between the ages of 14 and 30 stay away for fear that there may be political, religious, or racial bias. For there is NONE.

Don't let the cost or the time daunt you either. We know it is hard for West Indians even in Britain to get together £33, with many unemployed and others barely eking out an existence. But we must spare no effort in trying to surmount these problems together.

There are still barely literally a few days left to register for the Festival. We ask every West Indian who wants to be at this glorious festival in Bucharest this August, to contact the Secretary, West Indian Festival Committee through the form provided on page 5. Or ring WIMBLEDON 3397 late at night.

HURRY, NOW, OR YOU WILL BE TOO LATE!

★ ROSENBERG

DEFYING protests and appeals from all over the world from people representing the most diverse opinions and faiths, the Yankee imperialist government has murdered Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, two ordinary people who put truth and honour before perfidy, bribery and life itself.

With all honest people the world over, West Indians in London took part in demonstrations in an attempt to save the innocent people.

When the Eisenhower butchers murdered Julius and Ethel Rosenberg they thought they were killing opposition to their infamous policy of war and racism, but what they really killed was whatever sympathy there still existed for the American imperialist policy and system.

The Rosenbergs will live for ever!

Cultural Opportunities in the West Indies

WHENEVER I hear of efforts to develop West Indian culture, I am reminded of the well-known adage, "You must bend the tree when it is young," for although culture as such, knows no barrier of race or colour, yet it is always the most original contributions from a country and its people which make cultural expressions so unique, distinctive and admirable to all races.

In the same way that the talents of every individual vary, so it is that every race of

by Eric Deslandes

people attain their particular cultural code. That is why British West Indians view their own cultural attainments with some misgivings, for their culture finds its roots from the four corners of the earth, and like most colonies it is dominated by the influences of the ruling power of the day.

The Arts in all their manifestations, i.e., painting, sculpture, folklore, dance, folk-songs, literature, drama, etc., are the fundamental make-up of culture. Hence to maintain and develop any, or all, of these along a unique and original line, is what West Indians mean by furthering the development of their native culture.

Migrating Talent

Because of varied ethnic compositions, however, and because the nationalistic aspirations of our people are thwarted by colonialism, it is perhaps unavoidable that we sometimes wonder if we have so far achieved anything approaching a truly national culture.

But culture will strive as long as the world lasts, for culture and man are inseparable. It is not surprising, therefore, that our boys and girls are proudly taking their place among the world's best, through all the media of the Arts.

It is noticeable, however, that while progressive elements in the West Indies devote much time to encouraging the growth of a native culture, the more talented members of the community are forced to migrate owing to lack of opportunities for advancement. In relation to its population no other country in the world has produced the number of talented artists and sportsmen, as the West Indies have within the last one hundred years.

National Independence

Ironically enough, most of them make their name abroad, and because migration in most cases is forced upon the people, the question then arises: what must be done to encourage our up and coming talented youngsters while at home?

The first requisite is national independence which will give our people more national pride and responsibility. Hasn't it ever occurred to the present generation that there are countless West Indian patriots, and men and women of note who have passed over the years, and our history books carry no mention of them?

Unlike other countries which commemorate the deeds of their heroes in the erection of statues and land-marks, West Indians are asked to forget their patriots by censored school curricula prepared by the ruling power of the day and rammed into the minds of the young and innocent.

In the West Indies, our colonial rules couldn't care tuppence about our talented inhabitants. No provisions are made to give them steady jobs or offer them such positions that would give them a chance to promote and utilize their craft for the benefit of all.

During my stay in England I have come across a true cross-section of West Indian personalities. Men and women from whose talents our coming generation would benefit immensely. Many are the stories they will tell you of heartbreaks and disappointments, whilst trying to make a name at home.

Pathetic Story

Jamaica's one and only Alvin T. Marriott, renowned sculptor who received worthy comments from the

American Press for a presentation of a bust to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and whose carvings of outstanding Jamaican personalities are to this day unbeatable, is now residing in England. Alvin's story is a pathetic one.

In 1947 he was offered a scholarship by the British Council to further his study of sculpture in England, a course which he completed with credit. Returning to Jamaica he was promised a job with the newly erected University College of the West Indies, which did not materialise.

Meanwhile in the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation, Councillors passed a resolution advocating the erection of a statue to the memory of the late Marcus Garvey. It was suggested that Alvin should undertake the job, but the scheme fell through. This sculpture was faced with the prospect of taking on any job to make a living, so he decided to return to England.

Athletes, Artistes

Then there is young E. Percell, Jamaican-born scientist, whose name is well known in Canada where he is now residing. He is a cousin of N. W. Manley, Q.C., the West Indian barrister.

Poetess Una Marson of B.B.C. fame; ace calypso-composers, Lord Beginner and Kitchener and Europe domiciled.

Adolphe Roberts, Jamaican novelist is now a U.S.A. citizen, as was the case of the late Claude McKay, Jamaican novelist and poet. Louise Bennett, poetess and entertainer is now residing in the U.S.A.

The Trinidadian wonder girl, Hazel Scott, wife of Congressman Clayton Powell, is also residing in the U.S.A.

Actors Uriel Porter and Berta Pasuka, the latter of Ballet Negre fame; Earl Cameron (Bermuda), pianist Winifred Atwell (Trinidad); actress Mary Morris (Grenada), are but a few who have hit the headlines in show business in England.

Also leading the field in sports are Arthur Wint (Jamaica) who is finishing a course in medicine; E. Macdonald Bailey (Trinidad); Lindy Delaphena (Jamaica) professional footballer who is an ex-Middlesbrough centre forward; Leary Constantine (Trinidad), lecturer and veteran cricketer; the cricket immortal George Headley from Jamaica, and cruiser-weight boxer Yolande Pompee from Trinidad, and others . . . enough to fill a book.

Raw Deal

West Indians at home and abroad are proud of the achievements of these sons and daughters of the soil, but among them how many have not left their homes feeling bitter by the raw deal dished out to them?

Let us pledge ourselves, one and all, that when National Independence becomes a reality, we will encourage and stimulate interest among our more talented brethren in the development of our national culture.

And while we beat our feet to the pulsating melodies of Lord Beginner's calypsos or marvel at the versatility of Winifred Atwell's renditions, let us remember the words of Thomas Gray:

"Full many a gem,
Of purest ray serene,
The dark unfathom'd caves of ocean bear . . .
Full many a flower was born to blush unseen
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

He's out at last

NEWs that friends of Billy Strachan have eagerly awaited is now here.

Billy has at last been well enough to be discharged from hospital over the weekend 20/6/53. He will still be an out-patient for a while. But it is encouraging to have him with us again.

He was elected in his absence at the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the London Branch (C.L.C.) to continue as Secretary, a post which he has held for five years.

VIOLENCE IN BERLIN

by Rolly Simms

THE choice of words used to describe the recent provocations in East Berlin must have been very confusing to West Indians and other Colonials used to hearing the capitalist papers of Britain denouncing in the most righteous tones any attempts of the Colonial people to right the wrongs of colonialism by force.

It was quite a surprise to read in the capitalist press, murder, arson and looting being sympathetically described. Whatsoever may be the rights or wrongs of the recent Berlin disturbances, the oft repeated story that the "Western democracies" do not believe in violence to gain their ends has been contradicted by the glee with which they gloated and speculated on what was happening in Berlin.

If the British capitalist press which has been violently opposed to the struggle of Kenyans and Malaysians to free themselves and are never tired of telling Colonials not to follow the examples of Kenya and Malaya, now appear in full-blooded support of what they term "revolution" in East Germany, then we must look at this "Revolution" they are supporting.

DOLLARS

"The New Statesman and Nation" (19.6.53) commenting on the events said, "Western assertions that the riots were spontaneous must be read in the context of public knowledge that millions of dollars have been spent in agents and radio programmes designed to produce exactly this effect." Quick as lightning, Eisenhower announced (19.6.53) he was granting another fifty million dollars "aid" to West Berlin.

The Mutual Security Act passed by the United States Congress in 1951 provides 100 million dollars for espionage and sabotage inside East Germany and other European democracies.

This Government of the German Democratic Republic has not hesitated in its attempts to unify the whole of Germany and to end the Four Power Occupation, and on June 9th and 10th it announced far reaching measures. These measures could be summarised as (1) credits were given to small traders; (2) the plan for building heavy industry was revised, in order that more consumer goods could be made; (3) substantial concessions were made to the farmers; (4) all those convicted of crimes other than sabotage against the state were amnestied; (5) east-west travel restrictions were lifted; (6) a comprehensive agreement with the Evangelical Church was reached.

The West German Adenauer Government was terrified at these moves in view of their popularity with the overwhelming majority of the population.

It has now been discovered that armed groups parachuted into East Germany, and lorry loads of ammunition were discovered on the Berlin-Leipzig road.

Several persons, including a former SS commandant of a concentration camp, have confessed that they were paid to go over into East Berlin in groups to organise the disturbances.

The disturbance was easily put down because it had no mass support. Unlike Malaya where Britain has been fighting for five years and has used every method from head-hunting ("Caribbean News", Feb., 1953) to chemical warfare, have killed thousands of Malayan people.

The disturbances were organised by the American gangs with the purpose of putting back the big land barons in Mecklenburg and Saxony.

Those West Indians who visited Germany in 1951 and travelled to these areas can testify to how the land was divided up among the former landless peasants.

People's Government

It was also for the purpose of re-installing in the whole of Berlin persons of the kind who stoned Sugar-Ray Robinson with bottles on his first and last visit to West Berlin.

For West Indians, these incidents underline the ever present need for unity in the working-class movement. When the building workers of Berlin marched to the Government Offices they were exercising their constitutional rights, as the "Daily Express" noted, "Not a policeman interfered".

The Government realising the justness of the building workers claim, immediately issued a decree removing the order that had offended them. But the enemies of Peace and National Independence were not asleep and 14 hours after the building workers demonstration had ended, poured their hired assassins across the border.

JUNE 16th.

Memorable Day in history of B.G.

FIVE years since the shooting of five stalwart Guianese workers, their names are carved forever in the history of the West Indies National Liberation Movement. We will never forget Harry JUG, DHOOKIE, RAMBARRAN, BAGI and 19-year-old POORAN, brutally murdered at Enmore Sugar Estate, East Coast Demerara, British Guiana, June 16th, 1948.

"Shoot 'em down"

From mid-April 1948 to June, a strike of cane-cutters on all eight estates of the East Coast remained unbroken. The only way for the mill-owners to get their factories operating was to grant the wage increases, justly demanded by the workers, or to try to drive them back to work by intimidation.

Naturally the bosses preferred the cheaper way, so on the flimsiest of excuses the workers were shot. Not even the Venn Commission which was sent to whitewash the incident could completely hide the truth and it had to admit that "we are, however, of the opinion that the evidence has established that after the first few shots there was firing which went beyond the requirements of the situation."

Final Reckoning

The Imperial Government's only reply to that was to brush aside all appeals for some compensation for the three wives and eight children left fatherless, and to give the leader of the firing squad the Colonial Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

The fifth anniversary of their martyrdom finds tremendous changes taking place in British Guiana. The Peoples Progressive Party has achieved a resounding victory on a programme of radical changes. The day of reckoning draws a little closer for those who killed the Enmore Five, but the price has yet to be paid.

PREPARE FOR FESTIVAL

WITH only five weeks to go at the time of writing before West Indians leave, with other youth from Britain, to attend the World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship in Bucharest, the atmosphere is beginning to approach Festival pitch.

West Indians in Britain are indicating a keen desire to make the Festival, although most are finding it difficult because of the cost, £33.

The West Indian Festival Committee has issued an attractive leaflet calling on West Indians to "Join in this gay Festival of Peace and Friendship with young people from over a hundred countries."

Lord Beginner

Rehearsals have begun on the cultural programme with calypsos and a dramatic sketch. Lord Beginner, of calypso fame, is composing a special calypso for the Bucharest Festival and is assisting in the cultural preparations.

The Committee is making efforts also to raise money for its fund to assist West Indians to get to the Festival.

A successful social has been held and more are being planned.

The colour film of the Berlin Festival has also been shown to get registrations and to raise money.

Badges

Other details are that special cloth badges have been made and will be on sale about one shilling each.

The urgency now is to get those last minute registrations before the closing date and have more West Indian young men and girls taking part in the cultural rehearsals.

The Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago is expected to send a delegation. Their dances and calypsos will bring a message, it will tell of their suffering under British Colonialism. Youth from Britain will hear their songs and understand their meaning for they, too, have had inroads made in their culture, they also have suffered the ills of "occupation".

Olympic Champs Coming

The Programme for Culture and Sports has appealed to sportsmen in every country. Could you afford the Olympic Games in Helsinki? How you would have liked to see the record performances of Emile Zatopek.

Did you as a West Indian stand spell-bound as Herb McKenley crashed the tape with Remigino of the United States in the 100 metre sprint? Do you still discuss who was first at the tape? How you would have liked to cheer George Rhoden as he glided to victory in 400 metres relay. Have you met Dana Zatopkoya, the world Javelin throwing champion or Joseph Czermax the Olympic Hammer Throwing Champion?

These gallant sportsmen and women will all take part in the friendly sports meeting at the Festival this August. The Jamaican Federation of light athletics has announced the participation of McKenley and Rhoden in these sporting highlights of the year.

Don't miss it!

As young Iranian dancers capture through their dances the charming legend on Ancient Persia, West Indians will applaud. West Indians in Britain should also be there to applaud. There is a place for you at the Festival. You, I am sure, share the sentiment of Jean Vodies when inspired by the Berlin Festival he wrote:

"We swear to live better, to leave as our heritage
A triumphal Arch for those who shall follow us.
Nature is ours, bedecked with Spring,
We shall stand erect and live life in its fullness."

J. Vass Jackson

To WEST INDIAN Festival Committee

17 Bishop's Bridge Road,
London, W.2.

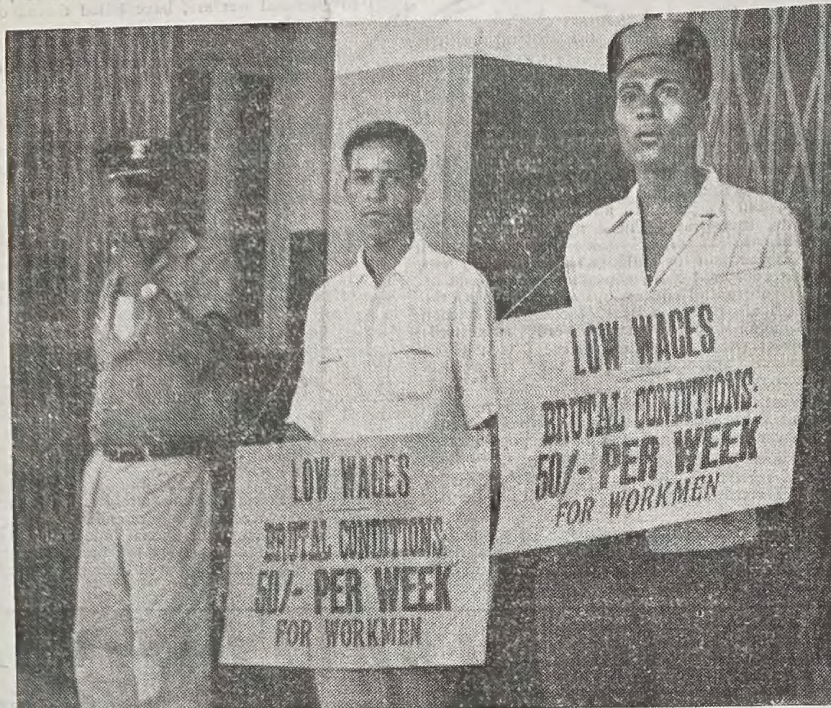
Please send me more details of the World Youth Festival in BUCHAREST.

Name

Address

JAMAICA'S ENGINEERS FIGHT AGAINST BRUTAL CONDITIONS

From Chris Lawrence



THE three hundred and twenty mechanics and garage workers of Jamaica's largest engineering plant and garage and service station owned by Henriques Bros., went on strike on May 10th against their starvation wages and inhuman working conditions. Tolerance of the men at the Kingston Industrial Works and the Kingston Industrial Garage who had been pressing for reforms for years had reached an end.

Workers in both plants unhesitatingly downed tools, marched out together and established picket lines making the once busy plants at Darling Street and Church Street look like a grim graveyard.

Up to the fourth week of the strike there was all prospect of victory so long as union leaders supported the rank and file wholeheartedly. There no longer existed the old sorrowful state of one union breaking a strike which it did not call.

So the B.I.T.U. issued a leaflet calling upon the public to support the workers, a plea which received full support. It seemed that the days of one unionist blackmailing the other had passed—a practice, incidentally, introduced by Bustamante himself.

100 % Profits

You will be shocked to know that at both plants: over 50 per cent. of the workers get LESS than £3 per week. The Company has only offered 1/6d. per week increase for some workers. Workmen with up to 37 years' service now get 56/- per week. No pension, no savings, no insurance is provided for workmen. At Kingston Industrial Works, workers do not get any pay on public holidays. The Company makes up to 100 per cent. profit on parts; up to £140 profit on a new car. Workmen are conveniently called "apprentices" and paid 40/- per week.

Apprentice Wage

A visit to the picket lines uncovered the information that apprentices, after from two to six years service, are paid from 10/- to 15/- per week and that there is no definite period established for these youngsters to be promoted to tradesman status. They perform as equally skilled operations as other men in the plants.

These men are represented by the champion of Labour, the champion of the Government, the champion of foreign capital and the defender of local big business—William Alexander Bustamante. Their prospects, therefore, do not look bright.

As the firm is enjoying such fat profits by virtue of the miserable wages and conditions under which the men work, the union, 18 months ago, put forward the following claims.

A general increase on wages of 25 per cent. Establishment by management of a provident fund and pension scheme financed by workers and management. Payment for public holidays on time and a half basis. Nothing was said in this claim about the apprentices.

Don't be surprised, this was brazenly rejected by management who today sometimes make a profit of £140 on a single item. They have boldly offered as an alternative a worthless 5 per cent. wage increase and contemptuously ignored the other demands. Negotiations between both parties had broken down three times, with management plugging with might and main to take the matter to arbitration where they will find a safe avenue, for their fellow capitalists, as arbitrator, would have undoubtedly decided in their favour.

But workers had learnt from years of experience to fight just as bitterly against arbitration, which had always landed them in the same position as before the struggle. So the strike went on.

Latest News

Latest reports received from our Jamaican correspondent now reveal that workers had agreed to return to work on the 8th of June, with assurances that their will be no victimisation.

A conference was to be held on the 15th to re-examine the companies' proposals and the union's claims.

That was the situation as this paper went to press.

Foreign Investors

At the Annual General Meeting of the Jamaican Chamber of Commerce held a few weeks ago, one of the executive officers declared to his audience and issued a statement to the Press calling upon all trade union leaders to resist irresponsible wage demands made by trade unionists who "frighten away" foreign investors from investing their money here.

So-called champions of the working class obediently react to the whip of the industrial slave owners. Both management and Labour leaders are all brothers of the same secret lodge, either members of the I.C.F.T.U. or members of the International M.R.A.. But the struggle against starvation wages, inhuman working conditions for social security against exploitation of youth labour, against corrupt union and political leaders, continues.

JIM CROW

BRIXTON—Paddington—where next?

Following the attempts (unsuccessful) of certain Brixton Publicans, the Westminster Arms, Praed Street, Paddington, has been refusing to serve coloured customers in the Saloon Bar. The Administrative Officer of the League of Coloured Peoples, Mr. Collymore, who is a lawyer, visited the Westminster Arms with witnesses and was treated in a shocking and disgraceful manner by the Publican. Since then, objection has been lodged with the Public House Licensing Authority.

All who fight against the colour-bar—that most evil manifestation of imperialism—are sure of our support and of all decent people everywhere.

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